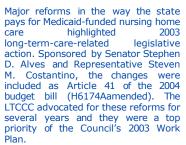
RHODE ISLAND LONG-TERM-CARE BRIEFS

A Newsletter of the RI Long-Term-Care Coordinating Council Lt. Gov. Charles J. Fogarty, Chairman Maureen Maigret, Executive Director

July 2003

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

2003 LEGISLATURE PASSES HISTORIC NURSING HOME PAYMENT REFORM, CUTS IN SENIOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS RESTORED, PILOT PROGRAM FOR NURSING HOME CARE FOR ELDER IMMIGRANTS ENACTED, RX DRUG ASSISTANCE EXPANDED



<full story>

RHODE ISLAND



LEGISLATIVE ROUND-UP 2003

A listing of 2003 Council-recommended legislation passed by the legislature. <full story>

COUNCIL WORKING TO ADDRESS NURSING AND DENTAL CARE CRISIS

Access to adequate dental care has been a long-standing problem for many nursing home residents. The problems grew worse, however, at the end of last year when one of the two dental care providers serving the state's nursing homes ended services. Working with Council member Senator Elizabeth Roberts, Chairwoman of the Senate Legislative Commission on Oral Health, a Council Subcommittee that includes representatives of the state's dental community has been studying the issue identifying potential including creation of a pilot mobile dental health program.

<full story>

BUDGET ARTICLE 27 TO STUDY

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LONG-TERM-CARE SPENDING: FY2002 HIGHLIGHTS

The Council published the sixth edition of *Rhode Island Long Care Spending: Where Do the \$\$\$ Go?* in February. The report showed total state spending for long-term care in FY2002 was \$414,198,745 (state and federal dollars), a 5% increase (\$22,216,584) over FY2001. Of the total spent, 51% were federal funds and 49% state.

<full story>



SEN. ALVES AND REP. COSTANTINO LEAD EFFORT TO REFORM NURSING HOME PAYMENTS

Rhode Island's nursing homes scored a huge victory with the passage of this year's budget. Led by Representative Steven M. Costantino, Deputy Chairman of the House Finance Committee, and Senator Stephen D. Alves, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, changes in nursing home payment methods, the Principles of Reimbursement, were incorporated into Article 41 of the Budget that passed both houses.

<full story>

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FUNDING INDEX FOR COMMUNITY PROVIDERS

FY2004 As part of the Budaet (H6174Aamended), the legislature created a new eleven-member Joint Legislative Study Commission to analyses undertake and make recommendations for legislative administrative action to implement an annual fundina index to address funding long-term stability of community-based private providers serving the human service needs of the state. The Commission includes two community-based providers be appointed by the Speaker.

HEALTH CARE QUALITY PERFORMANCE REPORTING FUNDS RESTORED

The Governor's proposed budget for FY2004 reduced funding for the state's health care quality reporting program by \$200,000 seriously impacting the ability of HEALTH continue this to program. nationally-recognized The program works in two important long-term care areas: nursing homes and home care.

<full story>

COUNCIL TARGETS FALL PREVENTION FOR ACTION

In its 2003 Work Plan, the LTCCC proposed to "identity a research-based disability prevention project that could be implemented through a statewide collaborative of health/aging service providers and design a plan to create or participate in such a collaborative." After reviewing the high degree of disability caused by falls and their heavy cost to the health care system, fall prevention was selected for the project. The Council will team up with several organizations to develop a year-long campaign targeted on fall prevention for elders living in home and community settings to start with a conference in the fall of 2003.

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